CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A follicular dissection system, comprising:

a polarized light source for directing polarized light onto a follicular donor section;

an analyzer for polarizing image light from the follicular donor section;

an optical system for providing an image of the follicular donor section from polarized image light from the analyzer.

2. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the polarized light source comprises a light source and a polarizer.

3. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the polarized light source comprises a fiberoptic illuminator and a polarizer.

4. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the analyzer is mounted in an optical path between the follicular donor section and the optical system.

5. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the analyzer is rotatably mounted in an optical path between the follicular donor section and an image viewing location.

6. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the optical system comprises a microscope.

7. The follicular dissection system of Claim 6, further comprising an image capture device for capturing the image and generating a signal representative of the image; and

a viewer for displaying the image responsive to the signal.

8. The follicular dissection system of Claim 6, wherein the analyzer is mounted integral with the microscope.

9. The follicular dissection system of Claim 8, wherein the analyzer is rotatably mounted.

10. The follicular dissection system of Claim 8, wherein the microscope comprises a collector lens and the analyzer is mounted at the entrance to the collector lens of the microscope.

11. The follicular dissection system of Claim 8, wherein the microscope comprises an eyepiece lens and the analyzer is mounted at the exit of the eyepiece lens.

12. The follicular dissection system of Claim 8, wherein the microscope comprises a collector lens and an eyepiece lens and the analyzer is mounted in an optical path between the collector lens and the eyepiece lens.

13. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the optical system comprises an image capture device.

14. The follicular dissection system of Claim 13, wherein the image capture device generates a signal responsive to the image.

15. The follicular dissection system of Claim 13, further comprising a viewer coupled to the image capture device and for displaying the image responsive to the signal.

16. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the image light is reflected from the follicular donor section.

17. The follicular dissection system of Claim 1, wherein the image light passes through the follicular donor section.

18. A follicular dissection system, comprising:

a source polarizer for polarizing light from a light source and directed toward a donor section;

an analyzer for polarizing image light from the donor section;

a microscope for creating a magnified image of the donor section from the light reflected from the donor section.

19. The follicular dissection system of Claim 18, wherein at least one of the source polarizer or analyzer is rotatably mounted.

20. The follicular dissection system of Claim 18, wherein the analyzer is mounted integral with the microscope.

21. The follicular dissection system of Claim 20, wherein the microscope comprises a collector lens and an eyepiece lens and the analyzer is mounted in an optical path between a collector lens of the microscope and an eyepiece lens of the microscope.

22. The follicular dissection system of Claim 20, wherein the microscope comprises a collector lens and the analyzer is mounted at an entrance to the collector lens.

23. The follicular dissection system of Claim 20, wherein the microscope comprises an eyepiece lens and the analyzer is mounted at an exit of the eyepiece lens.

24. The follicular dissection system of Claim 18, wherein the analyzer is located in an optical path between the donor section and the microscope.

25. The follicular dissection system of Claim 18, wherein the light source is a fiber optic light source.

26. The follicular dissection system of Claim 18, wherein the light source is integrally coupled with the microscope.

27. The follicular dissection system of Claim 18, further comprising a controller for controlling the intensity of the light source.

28. A method of enhancing the visibility of follicular donor sections, comprising:

directing polarized light onto a follicular donor section;

directing image light from the follicular donor section through an analyzer, thereby polarizing the image light;

creating an image from the polarized image light.

29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising rotating the analyzer to achieve a desired degree of extinction.

30. The method of Claim 28, wherein directing polarized light onto a follicular donor section comprises directing light from a light source through a polarizer and onto a follicular donor section.

31. The method of Claim 30, further comprising rotating one of the analyzer or the polarizer to achieve a desired degree of extinction.

32. The method of Claim 28, wherein the light source is a fiber optic light source.

33. The method of Claim 28, wherein the light source is coupled integrally with the microscope.

34. The method of Claim 28, further comprising controlling the intensity of the light source.

35. The method of Claim 28, further comprising magnifying the image.

36. The method of Claim 35, wherein magnifying the image comprises directing image light through a microscope.

37. The method of Claim 35, wherein magnifying the image comprises directing image light to an image capture device.

38. The method of Claim 37, wherein the image capture device comprises magnifying optics.

39. The method of Claim 37, wherein the image capture device comprises a controller and magnifying the image further comprises digitally magnifying the image.

40. A method of dissecting a hair transplant donor section, comprising:

directing polarized light onto the donor section;

directing image light from the object through an analyzer, thereby polarizing the light reflected from the object;

directing the image light from the object to a microscope to create an image of the donor section;

viewing the image.

41. The method of Claim 40, further comprising rotating the analyzer to achieve a desired degree of extinction.

42. The method of Claim 41, wherein achieving the desired degree of extinction comprises enhancing the visibility of light colored hair.